

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 03702 221113Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 /078 W

-----073069 221121Z /14

P 221002Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9498

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ, ET

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO AND THE COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: A) USUN 03235; B) STATE 211462; C) ADDIS ABABA 3581

SUMMARY: MOFA OFFICIAL HAS CLEARLY INDICATED ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT NECESSARILY CONTINUE TO SHARE USG POSITION THAT PUERTO RICO IS DOMESTIC ISSUE. GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAS NOT YET MADE DECISION ON HOW TO VOTE IN COMMITTEE OF 24, AND WILL GIVE USG POSITION VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. EVENTUAL VOTE, EMBASSY CONCLUDES, WILL NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY AND WILL REFLECT ETHIOPIAN VIEW OF ITS OVERALL INTERESTS IN RELATION TO US AND OUR ADVERSARIES, PARTICULARLY THE CUBANS. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED APPOINTMENT FOR AMBASSADOR WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FOR STATED PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PUERTO RICO. SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER IS FREQUENTLY INACCESSIBLE FOR MANY WEEKS TO WESTERN AMBASSADORS, DCM DELIVERED AIDE-MEMOIRE CONTAINING ALL POINTS REFTEL (B) TO AMERICAS DIVISION DIRECTOR BERHANE DERESSE ON AUG 21.

2. BERHANE, BEFORE EVER BEGINNING TO READ AIDE-MEMOIRE,  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 03702 221113Z

POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD BEEN SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT TO CORRECT APPARENT EMBASSY MISINTERPRETATION OF CHAIRMAN MENGISTU'S STATEMENTS AT CREDENTIALS CEREMONY JULY 21. CHAIRMAN DID NOT SAY THAT ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT SHARES USG VIEW THAT PUERTO RICO IS A DOMESTIC QUESTION, AS INDICATED IN EMBASSY'S RECENT AIDE-MEMOIRE ON SUBJECT (REFTEL C); INSTEAD HE HAD MERELY REVIEWED HISTORY OF US-ETHIOPIAN RE-

LATIONS AND HAD STRESSED TIMES WE HAD BEEN TOGETHER, E.G., ON PUERTO RICO VOTE AND EARLIER WHEN TWO NATIONS FOUGHT UNDER UN BANNER. USG SHOULD DRAW NO CONCLUSIONS FROM CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT ABOUT ANY ETHIOPIAN POSITIONS UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. DCM REPLIED THAT EMBASSY HAD NOT WISHED TO SEEM PRESUMPTIOUS OF ETHIOPIAN POSITION IN EARLIER NOTE, AND IT IS EXACTLY BECAUSE WE REALIZE THAT FORTHCOMING VOTE IN COMMITTEE 24 IS OCCASION FOR ETHIOPIA TO AGAIN CONSIDER ITS POSITION THAT WE HAVE NOW MADE TWO DEMARCHESES. FOR SAME REASON, AMBASSADOR HAS ASKED TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER. HE ADDED THAT EMBASSY HAD, NEVERTHELESS, TAKEN POSITIVE NOTE OF CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE OF PUERTO RICO ISSUE TO ILLUSTRATE EXAMPLE OF GOOD RELATIONS IN PAST AND WE ARE HOPEFUL REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF IN COMMITTEE OF 24 WITH PROCEDURAL MOTION TO AGAIN DEFER PUERTO RICO QUESTION.

3. AT THIS POINT, BERHANE READ POINTS IN AIDE-MEMOIRE CAREFULLY, SAID THAT MINISTRY APPRECIATES RECEIVING SUCH DETAILED REASONING, (WHICH WAS OBVIOUSLY CONVINCING TO BERHANE) AND ASSURED DCM THAT USG POSITION WOULD BE GIVEN VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BEFORE INSTRUCTIONS ARE SENT TO NEW YORK.

4. EMBASSY AGREES WITH USUN (REFTEL A, PARA 2) THAT ETHIO-  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 03702 221113Z

PIAN POSITION IS NOT LIKELY TO BE KNOWN UNTIL JUST BEFORE VOTE, THAT BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR IS ABSTENTION AND THAT IS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN. WHAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT VOTE WILL NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY AND THAT THERE WILL BE CONCLUSIONS TO BE DRAWN IN REFERENCE TO OUR OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONS ONCE VOTE HAS BEEN TAKEN. WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHAT DATE VOTE IS TO BE TAKEN.

CHAPIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMITTEES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ADDIS03702  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780342-1357  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780835/aaaabcyu.tel  
**Line Count:** 102  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 4ac5bf5d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 USUN NEW YORK 3235, 78 STATE 211462, 78 ADDIS ABABA 3581  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1654151  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PUERTO RICO AND THE COMMITTEE OF 24  
**TAGS:** PORG, RQ, ET, UNGA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4ac5bf5d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014